

THIS ISSUE

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Delta Digest

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES OF
NAVELSG FORWARD HEADQUARTERS AND PORT GROUP DELTA

CO's Call

*CDR John W. Perrett Jr., SC, USN is the
Commanding Officer for Port Group Delta.*

Now that we have arrived in theater and taken charge of the cargo handling mission from Port Group Charlie, I want to convey a few thoughts to you as we move forward.

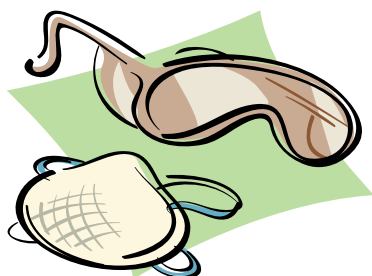
First, Bravo Zulu to the entire group for the professional way you performed in Norfolk and Williamsburg. As a group, we exceeded all expectations and, believe me, they were very high. There

“ Our challenge now is simple, but is easier said than done: *Complete the mission effectively and safely!* ”
CDR JOHN PERRETT

were numerous compliments directed to me about your professionalism and your behavior. Thank you all for the effort you put forth, and for the positive attitudes you displayed. You raised the bar!

The turnover process with Port Group Charlie went smoothly, and by all accounts the preliminary training fully prepared us to accomplish

See CO's Call page 2



SAFETY WATCH - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required to be properly accessed before use to ensure it is suitable. It must be maintained and stored properly; is provided with instructions on how to use it safely; and is used correctly by all personnel.



Command Master Chief's Corner

BMCM David Liles is the Command Master Chief for Port Group Delta.

CO's Call continued

our mission. We are fortunate to have thirty-nine members from Port Group Charlie who have extended their deployments to join Delta. Their experience will be invaluable to us in accomplishing our mission, so I say "welcome aboard" to all our Port Group Charlie extenders!

Our challenge now is simple, but is easier said than done: *Complete the mission effectively and safely!* I remain committed to you that we will do everything in our power to safely return you to your families and friends at the conclusion of our mission.

Your leadership team has a mutual commitment to ensure that you work and live in an environment conducive to your success. This means we will ensure you have the proper tools, training and direction to perform your job in a safe and effective manner. This deployment should be a fulfilling time of your life. The friends and memories you make here will stay with you forever. I hope you will take the time to establish personal goals to improve

Although most of Port Group DELTA has only been here in theatre for about seven weeks, we've already had a lot of good things happen. We had a very successful Relief in Place, Transfer of Authority (RIPTOA). We've had several successful calls forward. We've completed numerous hours of mandatory training, and most importantly, we've made it through seven weeks in theater without any major injuries.

Next, I would like to say congratulations to some folks. OS2 Johnson and SK2 Weymouth were selected as Junior Sailors of the Month for April and May respectively. IT3 Hayden and SK3 Sullivan were selected as Bluejackets of the month for April and May. BM2 Cockrell and BM2 Lemieux were advanced to Petty Officer First Class, and EO3 Allen was advanced to Petty Officer Second Class, and BMSN Chism, CSSN Ellis, CMCN Lamonica, SKSN Noles and SN Wilson were all

advanced to Petty Officer Third Class. These sailors who were advanced didn't achieve their new ranks by

accident. I'm sure that if you asked them,

most would say that they studied long

and hard. The XO held classes for all First Class and Second Class Petty Officers in which he laid out a proven strategy for preparing for advancement exams. If our sailors follow that strategy, develop study plans and stick to them, we should see a significant increase in the number of advancements off the next cycle.

There is one group of sailors selected for advancement who warrant special recognition. They are the new Chief Petty Officer selectees: SKC (SEL) Neis, and BMC (SEL) Gepfert.

Advancement to CPO is the pinnacle of most enlisted members' careers. These selectees can be proud of what they have achieved, but they should never become satisfied with their accomplishments. They are beginning a new

"We had a very successful Relief In Place, Turn Over Of Authority (RIPTOA)."
BMCM DAVID LILES

HOT TOPICS:

Special Interest News and Events



BRAVO ZULU

IT3 Hayden - Bluejacket of the month for April
OS2 Johnson - Junior Sailor of the Month for April
SK3 Sullivan - Bluejacket of the month for May
SK2 Weymouth - Junior Sailor of the Month for May

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SELECTS:
BM1 Gepfert
SK1 Neis

ADVANCEMENT TO PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS:
BM2 Cockrell
BM2 Lemieux

ADVANCEMENT TO PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS:
EO3 Allen

ADVANCEMENT TO PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS:
BMSN Chism
CSSN Ellis
CMCN Lamonica
SKSN Noles
SN Wilson

NOTICE:

Birthdays and Special Announcements



MAY BIRTHDAYS

SK3	AWOFESO, JOHNSON
SK3	BARKER, MELVIN
LCDR	BUTLER, WILLIAM
CSSN	CAPLE, AMBER
CS3	ELLIS, JAMES
CS3	GALVEZ, GABRIEL
MA2	HUERENA, KARLA
LCDR	MACKEY, MAURICE
CS2	MACWILLIAMSON, DAVID
BM2	MCGEE, WARREN
SKCS	MOULTON, DEBRA
YN2	SMITH, MIKUL
SK2	WALKER, ERIC
EN2	WILLIAMS, DELISA

Around Camp

By LT Karen Muntean

Thursday, May 4th was a landmark day for the members of Port Group DELTA. That was the day that the members of Port Group CHARLIE – the group that we relieved – boarded the buses that would take them to the airport for the long flight home. The buses had not even left the base, and already sailors were moving from top racks into lower racks, and claiming reading lamps, throw rugs, and furniture left behind by the CHARLIE sailors. However, the group that was happiest to see CHARLIE leave was the officers and chief petty officers who could now move out of their temporary quarters in the “PCB’s” or “pre-cast billets,” which are nothing more than open-bay barracks.

The officers and chiefs quarters are located in the old Kuwait officers’ quarters on base. Until CHARLIE moved into these quarters about seven months ago, they had been unoccupied and exposed to the elements since the first Gulf War back in 1991. While the folks of CHARLIE had done a great deal of work in making these quarters

habitable again, they still had significant wear and tear, and were in need of a little tender loving care.

Fortunately, a team of DELTA sailors volunteered to come to the rescue, bringing paint, brushes and tools. They worked day and night over a three day period on the rooms that were in the worst shape to help make the residence a little more like home. Thanks to their efforts, many of the rooms have fresh coats of paint, clean floors and some hand-made furniture. While it’s true that there is no place like home, until we can return home, these rooms will do quite nicely!

From the officers and chiefs who benefited from your efforts, BRAVO ZULU and many thanks to the boatswain mates, storekeepers and Seabees who made it happen!



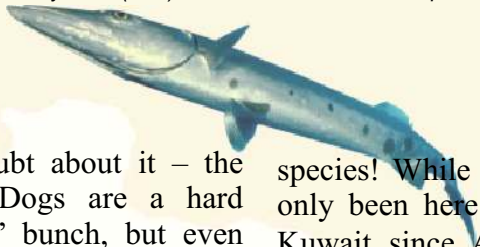
CMC continued

journey as CPO’s, and there is much yet for them to accomplish.

These CPO selectees didn’t reach this point in their careers without setting goals. Goals should be our road map to where we want to go. Without goals, we have no way of knowing whether we are going in the right direction or not. I would like to end by encouraging each member of Port Group DELTA to set some personal goals – particularly for this deployment. If you do, you might be surprised at what are able to accomplish for yourselves, your work center and for the command.

The Fishing Report

By BMC (SEL) Melinda "Admiral Ariel" Gepfert



No doubt about it – the Delta Dogs are a hard workin' bunch, but even the hardest working Dogs need a little down-time to relax and unwind. For me, and the members of the Delta Dog fishing crew, there's no better way to relax than grabbing a lawn chair, a rod and reel, and a box full of tackle, and doin' a little fishin'! Those of us fortunate to be stationed on the shore of the Persian Gulf have one really big fishing hole at our disposal!

The kind of fishing we're going to be talking about is known as salt water fishing. I call it a cast of surprise. You never know what you'll catch when you fish in a body of water that has millions of different

species! While Delta has only been here in sunny Kuwait since April 12th, we've been busy. We didn't waste anytime gathering gear from our predecessors in Port Group Charlie. We also had the privilege of fishing with a couple of the Charlie folks before they left. If anyone from Charlie should happen to read this note, I'd just like to say thank you for the wonderful hospitality and all the quick fishing trips. Special thanks to JR!

We've got the gear and we definitely have the place to go. Did I mention we have a rather large shipment of tackle on the way? We'll soon have enough gear to take a small Navy fishing. It's

always fun to have a friend or a "battle buddy" to go fishing with. Also, keep in mind, we're fishing for something to write home about! I'll make you one promise right now. If I tell you we caught a fish at what ever size or weigh – you can bet that it's no fish tale. We'll have the pictures to prove it!

Right now, there are around eight serious Delta fishers who try and go fishing at least twice a week. Hopefully, as our deployment goes on, we'll be joined by others. I always enjoy the company of some one who appreciates the sport and enjoys the outdoors, and I would like to invite anyone who would like to come along.

CO's Call continued

your mental, physical and spiritual health while you are here. We are constantly looking for ways to improve our processes and operations, whether it is *quality of life* or work related. If you have ideas to share, I encourage you to contact your chain of command. Remember, my door is always open if the situation warrants. Let's keep the momentum going. It is our time to shine!



Oasis In The Desert

By CDR Mike Sebastino

When one thinks of Kuwait, one normally has visions of endless deserts and oil refineries. The last thing most people think about is lounging around the pool at a seaside resort, or enjoying a gourmet meal. However, that is exactly what thirty



members of Port Group Delta experienced one Sunday in June thanks to the efforts of CDR Steve Schwing, the Company Commander for the Terminal Operations Center (TOC) at the port.

After hearing the rave reviews from a group of Navy cargo documenters who went on a day trip to a local resort with the Army in May, CDR Schwing took the initiative to arrange for a similar trip for TOC

personnel, as well as some sailors working in the marshalling yards and in support positions back at our home base. "I felt this would be good for the troops – give them a chance to get away and relax for a day," said Schwing.

The resort, located in the town of Julai'a, is a veritable oasis in the desert. Located on a magnificent stretch of unpolluted azure coastline

of the Persian Gulf, Julai'a has long been the "get away from it all" destination for elite Kuwaiti families. On this day, it was the Delta sailors doing the "getting away," as they enjoyed lounging on the beach, playing in the pool, or even taking a massage.

"One of my favorite parts was the fact we were only ten minutes away from the base, but

you felt like you were in a different world," said BM2 Michelle Jones. Like most of the sailors, BM2 particularly enjoyed the

buffet lunch that was included in the trip. "The food was excellent and we got to eat like real people on real plates – not plastic," said Jones.

Another very popular attraction at the resort was the Softouch Ayurvedic Center. Ayurveda – a type of massage therapy – is billed as "the most natural way to refresh yourself, to eliminate toxin imbalance from the body and regain resistance and good health." SK3 Leslie Alvarado was one of the Delta sailors who decided to eliminate her body's toxin imbalance, and she was quite pleased with the results. "I would truly recommend the massage to everyone. If you never had one, you will truly enjoy the one at this resort!" said Alvarado.

Others, like OS2 Mark Johnson, were thankful to just have a day away from the drudgery of camp life. "Personally, I enjoyed spending some time with my co-workers away from the job. It was nice to relax in a lawn chair and



watch the waves roll in, while lounging with new friends," said Johnson.

IT2 Dean Melendez pretty much summed up the feelings of everyone who attended when he said "I truly had a great time, and hope everyone has at least one opportunity to experience it themselves. I would gladly enjoy going one more time before returning to the states."



So for those of you back home, who think we're really roughing it out here in the desert, be happy that for one fine Sunday, there were thirty of us who didn't have it all that rough!



\$10,000 Road Trip

By CDR Mike Sebastino

Tell people you went on a 2.5 hour road trip into the desert and came back \$10,000 richer, and most will immediately think one thing – Vegas baby!

While EO1 Laurie Mott recently had the pleasure of making such a lucrative road trip, she didn't earn her money in the plush, air conditioned casinos of Las Vegas, she earned her money by re-enlisting for an additional six years of naval service. However, she does have one big advantage over the gamblers of Vegas – her "winnings" are tax free!

EO1 Mott deployed in August for what was then expected to be an approximately seven month tour of duty in Kuwait with Port Group Charlie. She recently volunteered to extend her tour of duty for an additional six months to serve with the "Delta Dogs" of Port Group Delta, which relieved Charlie in April. Shortly

after extending her tour of duty, EO1 Mott made an even longer extension – that of her commitment to the Navy. She re-enlisted for an additional six years, collecting a nice re-enlistment bonus of \$10,000 in return for her commitment. Since she is serving in a combat zone, she is not required to pay taxes on the bonus. "I enjoy serving my country. I know it sounds corny but I am very proud to be a member of the military. I feel very fortunate (to be serving in Kuwait), but the Seabee in me wishes I could be up North (in Iraq)."

The nine-year veteran is an equipment operator. Sailors in this rating are responsible for driving and operating vehicles and equipment, such as bulldozers, fork lifts, 5-ton trucks and "Humvees." She is currently assigned to the Terminal Operations Center at the port, where she assists in the command and control of vehicle and cargo movement in the marshalling yard. "I don't do much in my rate these days, but I love being an equipment operator. My

father and grandfather were both race car drivers, so I guess driving runs in the family."

As one can imagine, she must be enjoying her service in Kuwait, since she was willing to extend as a member of Port Group Delta. "I have really enjoyed being deployed. I have been able to attend college classes on-line, I now actually have a savings account, and my grandmother is so proud (of my service) that she tells all the people in her senior living center about me." Life in Kuwait isn't all about work. During her free time, EO1 also enjoys participating in sporting activities and, as a Cancer, she says she also enjoys "long walks on the beach at night with my 'battle buddy!'"

With her six-year commitment finalized, EO1 has big plans for the future. She expects to complete her associate's degree during the next six months. When she finishes her deployment, she plans to transfer to a Seabee battalion, earn her Seabee Combat Warfare pin, then take and pass the exam and board for chief petty officer (CPO). Most sailors would be content with advancement to CPO – which would certainly be a notable accomplishment, but EO1 has even higher

goals. "I would like to go LDO (limited duty officer) after making EOC."

EO1 has been an invaluable asset to Port Group DELTA, and we are happy to have her as a Delta Dog. From what we've seen of her performance so far, if anyone can achieve the type of goals she has set for herself, it is EO1 Mott!



EO1 Laurie Mott takes the re-enlistment oath.

FORWARD DEPLOYED

*A true leader has the confidence to stand alone,
The courage to make tough decisions,
And the compassion to listen to the needs of others.
He does not set out to be a leader,
But becomes one by the equality of his actions
And integrity of his intent..
--General Douglas MacArthur*





Flames and smoke rocket out of the nearby refinery stacks.



SW2 Rhodes and BU1 Coppola - Seabees can do!



BM1 Hansen tagging a container for identification.



SK2 Jones, CS2 Jones, and ABH1 Jones - Keeping up with the Joneses.



Local employee washing LIVE power lines.



BM2 Hardy rinsing down a 10k Atlas preparing it for redeployment.



SK2 Scott and BM2 Eady display their gift flowers on Mother's Day. CSA, Ltd. gave every mother flowers.



HM1 Hardin waits for her next patient in the medical office.



BMCS McGrath, BMCM Liles, and EOC Early checking the Engineering Yard.



SK2 Summerrow and BM1 Hansen give support to BM2 Cole as he learns to drive a 25 pax bus.



BM2 Whorton - "This is the way we clean our rugs so early in the morning."



SK2 Kennedy thinks about hurting BM1 Ryer for smudging her freshly cleaned windows.



BM2 Murphy practicing his 4000 pound lift.



CE2 Wells inspects wiring on a vehicle.



CE2 Lawson - "I wish I were a builder Seabee."



CM1 Patrick makes certain that CM2 Handerhan is high and tight.



BM2 Hardy is amazed how SK2 Robinson is asleep sitting up.



CE3 McKenzie - "I hope that there is not a camel spider under here."



SK1 Hite washing one of the Port Support Activity (PSA) buses - Don't forget to "Armor All" the tires and dash.



BMSN Mack - Not even phased.. "I wonder what they are serving in the Dining Facility (DFAC)."



BM3 Chism - Giving it all he has.



LCDR Feith accepts the award for first place in his weight class during the weight lifting competition.



SK2 Rogers accepts the first place trophy for his weight class during the weight lifting competition.



Even in the Middle East..I'm Lovin' it!



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